

legislation allows and encourages schools and localities to support PBS as well as supports research, technical assistance and related school reform activities that improve school climate. Additionally, the legislation would establish a new office within the Department of Education that would help coordinate and administer activities assisting specialized instructional support personnel who provide a critical role in the link between social and academic outcomes for students.

Once again we applaud you for introducing this important legislation and look forward to working with you to secure its enactment.

Sincerely,

American Counseling Association, American Music Therapy Association, American Occupational Therapy Association, American Psychological Association, American School Counselor Association, The Arc of the United States, Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder, Council for Children with Behavioral Disorders, Learning Disabilities Association of America, Mental Health America, National Alliance on Mental Illness, National Association for Children's Behavioral Health, National Association of State Directors of Special Education, National Down Syndrome Congress, School Social Work Association of America, United Cerebral Palsy.

ON THE PASSING OF DR.
SYLVESTER McDONALD

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise at this moment of deep sadness on the passing of Dr. Sylvester McDonald of St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. On behalf of my family, staff and the 110th Congress of the United States of America, I extend my most heartfelt sympathies to the family and friends of Dr. McDonald, affectionately known as "Dr. Mac." To those of us who grew up with his children and their extended family he was the much beloved, "Uncle Syl."

Dr. Sylvester O. McDonald was born on September 12, 1919, to John and Madalene McDonald in Kingston, Jamaica. In 1941, he left Jamaica to study at Howard University, where he met and married Eirene Canegata in 1943. This union lasted 60 years and produced 4 children: Genevieve (Rosie) Lambert, Judith Richardson, John McDonald, and Michael McDonald.

After graduation from Howard University Medical School in June 1949, and completion of an internship at Harlem Hospital in New York City, he came to St. Thomas where he joined the Municipal Hospital Staff on August 1, 1950. He continued his work there until June 1953, when he entered the U.S. Army where he served until October 1955. Upon his return to St. Thomas, he joined the staff of the Knud Hansen Hospital.

In 1958, he left St. Thomas to begin a Residency in Orthopedic Surgery at Queens Hospital Center in Jamaica, New York and the Hospital for Crippled Children in Newark, New Jersey. Upon completing the residency in 1962, he rejoined the hospital staff at Knud Hansen Hospital.

During his service with the Health Department he served in many capacities including Acting Commissioner of Health, Chief of Surgery, Medical Director and Orthopedic Consultant to Charles Harwood Hospital in St. Croix from 1962 through 1974. There he held Orthopedic Clinics on a weekly basis and performed Orthopedic Surgery when necessary. He also served as President of the Virgin Islands Medical Society, Vice President of the Executive Committee, member of the Clinical Pathological Conference Committee and member of the Accreditation Committee. Professional affiliations include the American Academy of Family Physicians, National Medical Association, and American Medical Association.

He also carried on a private practice in family medicine where he treated all who sought his help with utmost respect, courtesy, and patience. He retired from the Hospital in October 1982 and from private practice in 1985. In 1982, he began his service as Campus Physician at the University of the Virgin Islands which he continued until he was unable to do so.

Throughout his life, "Dr. Mac," as he was affectionately known, remained a very spiritual person. After his retirement, he attended Mass and Holy Communion daily, and served as a Eucharistic Minister at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish.

His favorite pastimes were spending time with his family, his daily walks and a swim or soak on Magens Bay.

Dr. Mac was one of the most revered physicians in the Virgin Islands. During his distinguished medical career, and through his various executive positions, he remained the epitome of the family and community doctor.

The entire Virgin Islands has been truly blessed to have had such a skilled physician and caring and compassionate human being as a part of our lives. We will be forever grateful for the legacy "Dr. Mac" has left behind—a legacy that will surely continue to inspire and positively impact future generations of physicians, healthcare professionals and all Virgin Islanders.

Madam Speaker, I know that entire Congress joins my family and me in wishing Dr. Mac's family the fullness of God's love and peace during this difficult time of grief. May they all be sustained by the many wonderful memories that will remain with all of us forever and may "Dr. Mac/Uncle Syl" rest in peace.

H.R. 2046 OVERRIDES BROAD
RANGE OF LAWS

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, I received a letter today from a bipartisan coalition of family and faith-based organizations, who are concerned that powerful international gambling interests will succeed in negating U.S. laws that curb Internet gambling. I ask unanimous consent to place a copy of this letter in the RECORD.

Probably the most serious avenue of attack mentioned in this letter is H.R. 2046, which would legalize Internet gambling and provide online casinos with exemptions from federal and state laws.

Just one year ago, this body voted 317 to 93 in favor of the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2006, which went on to be signed into law on October 13, 2006. By enacting UIGEA, we emphatically decided that we would not simply roll over as offshore gambling operators deliberately defied our laws. We would enforce our laws, even when the websites are offshore, by cutting off the flow of money for illegal Internet gambling activities. At the same time, we preserved existing Federal and State gambling laws, including the rights of States to set gambling policy and regulate any gambling operators within their own borders.

H.R. 2046 does not repeal UIGEA per se, but that would be its practical effect. The license this legislation would grant to Internet gambling operators serves as an affirmative defense to any prosecution or enforcement action under any other Federal or State law. It brushes aside Federal gambling laws such as the Wire Act, State gambling prohibitions, and State gambling regulatory commissions.

The proponents of H.R. 2046 say there is an opt-out for States, but this opt-out is riddled with problems. First, State laws already on the books don't matter—the governor has to certify exactly what is prohibited in that State, and if he or she fails to make that certification within 90 days, then the State becomes open game for Internet gamblers. Not only is it bad policy to ignore laws on the books, it is probably unconstitutional to give the Governor effective unilateral power to set Internet gambling policy for the State.

Second, if the State were to allow any form of gambling online, it would be regulated by the Treasury Department, which has no experience in gambling regulation, instead of the highly-experienced State gambling commissions.

Third, the State opt-out would violate current U.S. trade obligations, so the World Trade Organization could tell the U.S. to drop the opt-out or face stiff trade penalties. The U.S. is currently trying to withdraw its "obligation" to free trade in gambling—which the U.S. never intended to make—but the process could take months or years. Until then, the offshore gambling industry could attack the State opt-out in H.R. 2046 in the WTO, as one of their attorneys publicly stated at a Cato Institute forum just last week.

Finally, keep in mind that NO State has yet legalized Internet gambling with foreign companies. If all the States opt out according to the laws they already have on the books, and if the opt-outs are not challenged legally, what will the international gambling interests have gained? If nothing, then why are they spending millions on lobbying efforts to pass H.R. 2046?

I hope that my colleagues will look past the smokescreen and see that H.R. 2046 could result in the greatest expansion of gambling ever enacted by Congress.

AUGUST 1, 2007.

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS: As a bipartisan coalition of family and faith-based organizations representing millions of citizens nationwide, we thank you for your efforts to protect families from the dangers of Internet gambling. Last year, Congress took the very valuable step of enacting the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2006 (UIGEA) so that U.S. gambling laws could be better enforced on the Internet. We are concerned, however, about ensuring the integrity of UIGEA in upcoming months. We have three primary concerns:

Congressional support for strong UIGEA regulations from the Treasury Department, add list of illegal Internet gambling to FinCEN and OFAC lists, block transactions, create a system for reporting illegal sites to the DOJ (Internet, phone, mail), enforce prosecution of illegal online gambling operations.

Your support of UIGEA's integrity and your opposition to contrary legislation.

Congressional support for U.S. withdrawal from WTO obligations that jeopardize UIGEA.

Internet gambling represents the most invasive and addictive form of gambling in history. Speed, accessibility, availability and anonymity make Internet gambling the perfect storm for gambling addiction. Internet gambling also creates fertile ground for criminal activity and threatens homeland security by potentially funding terrorist activity.

More than 230 million Americans access the Internet, many of whom are children and adolescents. Internet gambling extends beyond state borders, beyond democratically enacted laws and is piped directly into millions of homes. Before Congress passed UIGEA, nearly 3,000 online casinos could be accessed instantly with the click of a mouse.

Since its passage, UIGEA has severely cut unlawful U.S. profits to foreign gambling interests. Now these Internet casino operations are willing to spend millions of dollars influencing Congress to gain legal access into U.S. homes. In fact, the UC Group (a leading payment-service provider in the U.K.) claims to be "leading the initiative" behind Rep. Barney Frank's bill, H.R. 2046. The misinformation campaign is in full swing, and Congress is the target. You should be aware of several bills that threaten the integrity of UIGEA:

Rep. Frank's bill H.R. 2046—far-reaching legalization of Internet gambling, providing online casinos with exemptions from federal and state laws.

Rep. Wexler's bill H.R. 2610—exempts poker and "games of skill" from UIGEA.

Rep. McDermott's bill H.R. 2607—licenses and taxes Internet casinos.

Foreign gambling interests are also pressuring the World Trade Organization (WTO) to force the U.S. to legalize Internet gambling. They claim that the U.S. is obligated to legalize gambling because it committed to free trade in "recreational services," and a WTO panel agreed. Now the U.S. is seeking to amend its trade commitments to make clear that Congress never intended to turn over to the WTO its right to set gambling policy. Congress should return the favor to the U.S. Trade Representative by supporting these negotiations.

Again, thank you for your time and service in preserving families. We hope for your ongoing support of the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act in the upcoming months.

Sincerely,

TOM MINNERY,
*Senior Vice President,
Focus on the Family
Action.*

GUY C. CLARK,
*Chairman, National
Coalition Against
Legalized Gambling.*

GARY BAUER,
*President, American
Values.*

ROBERTA COMBS,
*President, Christian
Coalition of Amer-
ica.*

PHYLLIS SCHLAFLY,
*President and Found-
er, Eagle Forum.*

TOM MCCLUSKY,
*Vice President for
Government Affairs,
Family Research
Council.*

KEITH WIEBE,
*President, American
Association of Chris-
tian Schools.*

DONALD E. WILDMON,
*Executive Director and
Founder, American
Family Association.*

ENSURING MILITARY READINESS THROUGH STABILITY AND PRE- DICTABILITY DEPLOYMENT POL- ICY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 3159. If it were a sincere attempt to address deployment-to-dwell schedules, I would be inclined to support it. Our troops have been rotating frequently; it is a serious issue that calls for a serious discussion.

H.R. 3159, however, is yet another sound bite masquerading as policy, and is illustrative of the entire congressional debate on Iraq thus far.

Not once have we had a serious deliberation regarding how to extricate ourselves from our current dilemma. We have only considered take-it-or-leave-it measures designed to inflict political damage; we have yet to make a serious attempt to find consensus on the most vexing foreign policy conundrum of our time.

I am dissatisfied with the conduct of the war, and I am eager to see an end to the casualties. Regardless, we must accept the fact that our actions will have long term consequences for the United States, for Iraq, and the entire Middle East. We must put more thought into our exit than we did our entrance to Iraq; legislation like H.R. 3159 does not suffice.

Yesterday at the Rules Committee, my colleague FRANK WOLF offered an amendment expressing the sense of Congress that the way forward in Iraq would be to implement the recommendations of the Iraq Study Group. I was a cosponsor of this amendment, and I was disappointed the Rules Committee yet again denied us an opportunity to debate this important measure.

Madam Speaker, we are in a difficult spot in Iraq. In such circumstances, it makes sense to gather the best minds our country has to offer, from across the political spectrum, and ask their advice as to how we should proceed. That's what we did when we created the Iraq Study Group, and their recommendations represent a blueprint for an orderly way out of Iraq.

In my opinion, we should embrace these recommendations. At a minimum, we should debate them. I continue to look forward to the day that occurs.

Despite my misgivings, I would have supported this legislation had the majority supported the motion to recommit. This stipulated the deployment timetables proposed by the

Democratic majority could go into effect. The Secretary of Defense, however, would have to certify they would not cause the tour of any unit already deployed to be extended. He would also have to certify they would not increase the operational risk to any deployed unit.

These were common sense measures worthy of support. Unfortunately, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle rejected them, and I am compelled to vote against the bill.

ENSURING MILITARY READINESS THROUGH STABILITY AND PRE- DICTABILITY DEPLOYMENT POL- ICY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I voted in support of the Ensuring Military Readiness Through Stability and Predictability Deployment Policy Act of 2007, which mandates a minimum period of rest and recuperation for units and members of the regular and reserve components of the Armed Forces between deployments to Iraq.

At a time when our generals warn that the Army is at a breaking point, this is an important stand in support of troop readiness and keeping faith with our military families. It is also another step forward in forcing the responsible drawdown of our troops from Iraq and ending the war. I believe we must bring our troops home as quickly as possible and work to stabilize Iraq through political and diplomatic efforts. I will continue to support any legislation that moves us closer to the end of this national nightmare.

TRIBUTE OF DR. GEORGE V.
IRONS, JR.

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, I would like to commend the outstanding achievements of Dr. George V. Irons Jr., native Alabamian, who has treated the hearts of Americans, literally, for over five decades as one of our nation's foremost cardiologists.

Dr. Irons' accomplishments began at an early age. As a high school junior, he won the prestigious Bausch and Lomb National Science Award, based on a nationwide scientific talent search—written competitive examinations sponsored by the University of Rochester, New York. He graduated from Woodlawn High School with a straight "A" record—first in his class—and served as president of his student body. At Howard College (now Samford University), he completed a rigorous four year pre-med curriculum in 35 months with a perfect 4.0 G.P.A. For his excellence in scholarship, leadership and service, he was awarded the John R. Mott Trophy, and as the outstanding graduating senior he won the Birmingham Exchange Club Trophy, Danforth Award, and ODK National Award. He